



STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
DELAWARE HARNESS RACING COMMISSION
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2005 Year End Report

On October 21, 2005, Hugh Gallagher began working as Racing Administrator for the Delaware Harness Racing Commission (DHRC). This report will focus on activities and objectives that have transpired from October 21st through December 31, 2005.

1. Industry Relations:

The four major components of the Delaware Racing Industry are:

- The public, who enjoy the long, storied traditions of harness racing in Delaware
- The horsemen, who have made substantial investments in time and dollars to provide fit, well conditioned horses to the races, such as “RAINBOW BLUE,” the 2004 Harness Horse of the Year and other noted champions such as “PERFECT BEAUTY.” The horsemen racing in Delaware are primarily represented by the Delaware Standardbred Owners Association (DSOA)
- The racetrack management teams at Dover Downs and Harrington Raceway, who provide the first class venues we have come to appreciate, and
- The DHRC, who provides regulatory oversight to all the participants in Delaware’s racing programs. That oversight includes, but is not limited to hiring and training the State racing officials such as the judges, veterinarians, investigators and administrative support staff, who are responsible for the conduct of racing from the time of entry through the clearance by testing laboratories.

Objective: The Racing Administrator works daily to ensure that lines of communication are clearly open between all parties. If a concern or question arises from a patron or other observer of a race, then the Administrator determines who should respond to the question. At the behest of DHRC Chair Beth Steele, a Rules Committee has been formed to evaluate and address the rules of racing. Members of DHRC staff, Commission Counsel, track management, the Delaware Standardbred Breeders Fund and the DSOA will participate. Committee meetings will begin mid-January.

2. Personnel: An ongoing assessment of current working officials in relation to the daily workload at the tracks has been instituted, and several areas are under consideration for change: the judges, licensing officials, veterinarians, and DHRC staff.

Objective: To equip the above noted areas with the means to properly address the goals, tasks, issues and responsibilities of these various sectors. In so doing we will assemble the premier Harness Racing Administration in North America: ***DELAWARE~ THE FIRST STATE, FIRST IN INTEGRITY.***

3. Regulatory Compliance: The DHRC has Jo Ann Price, a paralegal, who works closely with the Racing Administrator in addressing regulatory compliance issues. Ms. Price has extensive experience in working with State statutes governing racing as well as the day-to-day rules of the DHRC. She created a new "Notice of Hearing" with the input of Commission Counsel Patricia Murphy. The judges will notify licensees and other interested parties of potential rule violations with this notice. Additionally, Ms. Price and Mr. Gallagher are compiling a policies and procedures manual to accompany the judge's updated rulebooks.

Objective: To be current and up-to-date with the rules of racing as they correspond to real life situations at the track level and ensure full compliance with the rights afforded our licensees.

4. Medication Issues: Considerable concern has been focused on both equine and human Medication issues. The Racing Administrator and Chief Investigator Robert Collison met with officials of both Dover Downs and Harrington Raceway to arrange for the proper collection of test samples. In early November, representatives from DHRC and Dalare Associates met with Dr. Larry Soma at the New Bolton Center in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania. Dr. Soma is a leading authority on Base Excess equine blood gas analysis. He complimented the DHRC for initiating this meeting and its use of the Radiometer equipment at the tracks for equine blood analysis of both Base Excess and total carbon dioxide. While participating in the University of Louisville's School for Officials, Mr. Gallagher met with Dr. Richard Sams of the Ohio State University Veterinarian School of Medicine for further discussion on the proper procedures and protocols of both pre-race and post-race equine blood and urine analysis.

Objective: To ensure the wagering public, the competing horsemen, track managements and all other interested parties that a level and fair playing field has been established and is maintained diligently on a daily basis and to employ state of the art equipment, protocols and techniques for the overall safety and welfare of the competing horses. The human testing program is designed to assure trainers and drivers that all competitors are subject to testing, and that such testing is implemented for the safety of the competitors on and off the track.

Summation: The DHRC staff looks forward to a full year of progress in 2006. We are actively interviewing and considering fully accredited and eligible candidates for senior racing positions with the DHRC. It our goal to assemble and maintain the strongest Harness Racing Administration in North America. One of the first steps will be to implement the findings of the Rules Committee. The accreditation of all our judges is mandated for 2006. Additionally, members of the DHRC have been nominated to ARCI committees for Standardbred Racing, Model Rules and Legal and Government Affairs.

Respectfully submitted,

Hugh Gallagher, DHRC Racing Administrator
December 30, 2005